

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/690,647	GREENBERG, ANDREW S.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	J. Douglas Schultz, Ph.D.	1635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment submitted May 10, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18,29,30 and 49.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on February 19, 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>July 11, 2003</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dana Gordon on July 22, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces TNF- α induced lipolysis comprising

i) isolating a compound which is an inhibitor of ERK1, ERK2, or JNK, comprising contacting a candidate compound or a library of candidate compounds with one of ERK1, ERK2, or JNK, and assaying for a change in the expression or activity of ERK1, ERK2, or JNK, wherein a compound that decreases said expression or activity thereby indicates that the compound is an inhibitor of ERK1, ERK2, or JNK, and

ii) contacting an adipocyte with the inhibitor of step (i) and TNF- α and determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the inhibitor of step (i) relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the inhibitor of step (i) and wherein a similar level of lipolysis in the presence of the inhibitor relative to the absence of the compound when tested in the absence of TNF- α indicates that the compound reduces TNF- α induced lipolysis, to thereby identify a compound which reduces TNF- α induced lipolysis.

19-28. (canceled)

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29. (currently amended) A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces TNF- α induced lipolysis comprising

i) isolating a compound which is an inhibitor of ERK1 or ERK2, comprising contacting a candidate compound or a library of candidate compounds with one of ERK1 or ERK2, and assaying for a change in the expression or activity of ERK1 or ERK2, wherein a compound that decreases said expression or activity thereby indicates that the compound is an inhibitor of ERK1 or ERK2, and

ii) contacting an adipocyte with the inhibitor of step (i) and TNF- α and determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the inhibitor of step (i) relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the inhibitor of step (i) and wherein a similar level of lipolysis in the presence of the inhibitor relative to the absence of the compound when tested in the absence of TNF- α indicates that the compound reduces TNF- α induced lipolysis, to thereby identify a compound which reduces TNF- α induced lipolysis.

30. (currently amended) A drug screening method for identifying a compound which reduces TNF- α induced lipolysis comprising

i) isolating a compound which is an inhibitor of JNK, comprising contacting a candidate compound or a library of candidate compounds with JNK, and assaying for a change in the expression or activity of JNK, wherein a compound that decreases said expression or activity thereby indicates that the compound is an inhibitor of JNK, and

ii) contacting an adipocyte with the inhibitor of step (i) and TNF- α and determining the level of lipolysis, wherein a lower level of lipolysis in the presence of the inhibitor of step (i) relative to the level of lipolysis in the absence of the inhibitor of step (i) and wherein a similar level of lipolysis in the presence of the inhibitor relative to the absence of the compound when tested in the absence of TNF- α indicates that the compound reduces TNF- α induced lipolysis, to thereby identify a compound which reduces TNF- α induced lipolysis.

31-48. (canceled)

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49. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, 29, or 30, wherein said level of TNF- α induced lipolysis is measured by levels of free fatty acid or glycerol in the cell medium.

50-56. (canceled)

Conclusion

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Douglas Schultz, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0763. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John L. LeGuyader can be reached on 571-272-0760. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also

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enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

JD Schultz, PhD

JOHN L. LeGUYADER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

9/26/04